

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, reconsideration of the above referenced application is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-30, 35, 40 and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1,2,4,5,7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being anticipated by Hong U.S. Patent No. 5,764,924.

Claims 5, 24-44, 45-47 and 50-52 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 (e) as being anticipated by Conway, et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,425,033 B1.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hong, 5,764,924 in view of Drott et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,333,929.

Claims 48 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Conway in view of Hong.

Claims 25-30, 35, 40 and 44 are amended to address the rejection under §112, accordingly, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

With regards to U.S. Patent 6,418,504 to Conway, Applicant respectfully sets forth that Conway utilizes acknowledgements, and thus, Conway fails to teach or suggest sending serial data “without requiring or waiting for an incoming acknowledgement over the link before inaugurating a transfer of the serial bus data over the link”, as specifically claimed in

independent Claim 24 and 31. Applicant refers the Examiner to the Conway patent column 11, lines 16-50, which describes in detail “success acknowledgements transactions” which include ACK packets. With reference to lines 41-45, it is specifically detailed how these success acknowledgements allow one WASP to confirm the successful transfer of data, and also, to allow the transmitter of the other WASP to decrement its DQ tracking counter by 8, allowing 8 more elements to be transmitted.

With emphasis, these success acknowledgments create latency, which is a huge problem, particularly with regards to PCI type transactions. This latency is an impediment to the bridge maintaining a performance that is required by the PCI bus. Conway even acknowledges that his scheme does not operate at the full performance required by the PCI bus, stating “although this serial link increases the latency of the first piece of information transferred, the aggregate bit rate is fast enough to maintain sustained performance “close” to that achieved by the PCI bus. (See specification column 9, lines 4-7). During a burst transaction, which notably is not described by Conway, the latency could cause the bridge exchanging PCI transactions to fail. With a burst data read or write cycle, the latency of Conway creates a bottleneck making the bridge prone to failure.

Advantageously, Applicant is claimed invention achieves technical advantages in that the bridge maintains sustained performance to that achieved by the PCI bus, even during burst transactions, which solves the latency problems that designers have been troubled with when trying to design serial bridges for use in PCI systems. Applicant’s claimed solution is the first

serial PCI bridge that meets the full performance required by the PCI bus. This is a tremendous technological feat. Support for this feature is found in Applicant's specification on page 19, lines 20-25.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 24 and 31, as well as the respective dependent Claims, define over the prior art, and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

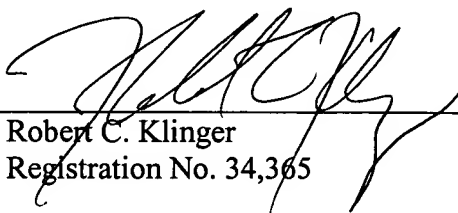
New independent Claim 53 and dependent Claims 54-59 are also included herewith for examination, and also define over the prior art of record for the foregoing reasons. Favorable examination of these claims is respectfully requested.

A Three Month Extension of Time is included herewith along with the requisite fee.

No additional fees are believed to be due, however, the Examiner is authorized to debit Applicant's Deposit Account #50-1752 if any additional fees are required.

If the Examiner has any further issues, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by phone where possible.

Respectfully Submitted,


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